

For release Friday, Feb. 15

WASHINGTON---Rep. Armistead Selden (D-Ala.) today announced witnesses who will appear next week when the House Inter-American Affairs Subcommittee opens hearings on Castro and Communist subversion in Latin America.

Congressman Selden, chairman of the Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs, said Assistant Secretary of State Edwin M. Martin, CIA Director John A. McCone, and ex-President of the Cuban Senate Dr. Manuel A. deVarona, will testify next week on the extent and nature of Cuba-based Communist subversion.

Mr. Martin, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, is scheduled to testify in open hearings Monday at 10 a.m. Rep. Selden said the subcommittee will go into executive session after Martin's testimony for questioning.

Mr. McCone will testify before the full House Foreign Affairs Committee Tuesday morning, and his report on Castro-Communist activities in the Americas will be given in closed session.

At Wednesday's open hearings, Dr. Manuel deVarona, prominent Cuban exile leader and former official of the Cuban government, will furnish the subcommittee evidence concerning the Castro-Communist subversive apparatus in Central and South America.

Pointing out that the "very existence of a Communist Cuba is the ultimate 'offensive' weapon Khrushchev relies on in his scheme of subversion and infiltration," Rep. Selden said his subcommittee hopes to spotlight Communist activities in this hemisphere.

The Alabama Congressman said, "I am convinced the Kremlin is using Castro's island as a command post to subvert the Western Hemisphere by a revolution of terror and tyranny. It is my hope that the subcommittee can blueprint Khrushchev's 'grand design' in the Americas, and at the same time make recommendations as to the best ways to counter his plans."

Congressman Selden said additional witnesses will be announced as the hearings proceed.

The subcommittee hearings will begin at 10 a.m. Monday in the Agriculture Committee Room, New House Office Building.

2/15/63. Knoche and [ ] advised of  
the attached. Further told that this announcement  
by Senden was unauthorized and in violation of  
the Committee's rules.

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JSW/m